



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Meeting

February 11, 2009

DRAFT

Welcome/Introductions/Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council was held on February 11, 2009 at Northland Pioneer College, Learning Center Building Room 109, located at 1611 S. Main in Snowflake, AZ 85639.

Chair Webb welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 3:25 p.m. Chair Webb called for a roll call attendance; the following members were present:

Members present:

Mary Hammond, Becky Towle, Mary Tyler, Melissa Webb, Tom Barela, Margie Tapia (present via telephone); Claude Endfield arrived after roll was taken.

Members absent: Michael Zimmerman, Cathy Taylor, Rance Pullin

Others present:

Dee Hoagland and Lori Ball

Member Report and Updates

Member Tyler gave a very thorough report and synopsis of the First Things First Chair and Vice-Chair meeting that she attended as the designee for Melissa Webb.

Member Towle reported that the Show Low Head Start will be participating in a Nutrition and Childhood Obesity Study that will involve Head Start children and their families as well as Head Start staff at the Show Low Center. Member Towle also reminded the Council that Head Start does developmental screenings for children who may be at risk for developmental delay through the Early Head Start Program. If referrals are needed based on the results of the screenings, they will be made to an appropriate agency or program.

Member Tyler reported that she was able to view one of the sponsorship spots that First Things First has paid for on PBS Channel 8; Member Tyler reported that it was very well done and effective.

Chair Webb reported that The Apache County Leadership Summit was very successful and well attended by members of the community. Additionally, she reported that one of the stated affirmations made during the Summit was to make a high-quality preschool a reality in Apache County. Chair Webb presented to the attendees at the Summit about First Things First and she was very pleased to hear the group's affirmation for preschool.

Call to the Public

No calls to the public forms were received.

Adoption of Minutes

The January 14, 2008 Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Minutes were presented for approval; Member Barela moved to accept the Minutes as written; Member Hammond seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Regional Coordinator's Report

Regional Coordinator Dobler-Allen updated the Council on the Quality First application process and status to date of there being more than 500 applications received state-wide and that there are enough applications from our region to fill all of our allocated slots. Additional updates were given to the Council related to The Arizona Parent's Kit, T.E.A.C.H., and Child Care Health Consultants.

Dobler-Allen updated the Council on efforts to recruit a member of the community to serve on this Council in the capacity of philanthropist. Member Barela suggested talking with the Foundation for Summit Regional Healthcare, and gave the contact information for Cynthia Clements, the Board Secretary. Council members are asked to talk with community members and to direct interested members to the First Things First website at www.azftf.gov.

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reported that seven RFGA Community Informational Meetings have been held around the region and that approximately 65 people were able to attend one of those meetings.

The scheduled events for the months of January, and February were reviewed with the Council.

Discussion of Legislative Action and State Budget

Coordinator Dobler-Allen gave an update of the current Legislative Actions with respect to the "swipe" of the interest income that the tax revenue has earned, as well as the Board's vehement opposition to that action and the fact that the Board is pursuing its own legal opinion with respect to the Legislature's action.

Coordinator Dobler-Allen presented the Navajo/Apache Regional Partnership Council Early Childhood Development Advocacy Kit and discussed the ways in which this kit might be used to communicate with our district's legislators. Coordinator Dobler-Allen advised the Council that they can express their own individual views to legislators, as citizens of the State of Arizona. Council Members can only say they represent the views of the Council or the Board of First Things First if they are stating an official position that has been taken by the Board.

Discussion of Logic Model and Strategy Workgroup Progress

Coordinator Dobler-Allen reported that in light of the current Budgetary Crisis and the dire need to get funding into local communities so that work may begin, there is a significant push to move as many strategies as possible towards completion of Scopes of Work so that as many as possible will be ready to be let out for public response and, therefore, be funded by July 1, 2009. Currently, RFGAs will be let out as soon as they are ready; there is no longer a phased roll-out plan. No specific dates have been stated, as yet; but as soon as they are available, the Council will be notified.

The following strategies continue to be On Hold:

Communications

Needs and Assets

Expanding Child Care

Discretionary funding is on the State Board's agenda for February; more clarity is expected at that time.

Adjournment

Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Melissa Webb, Chair

Kate Dobler-Allen, Regional Coordinator